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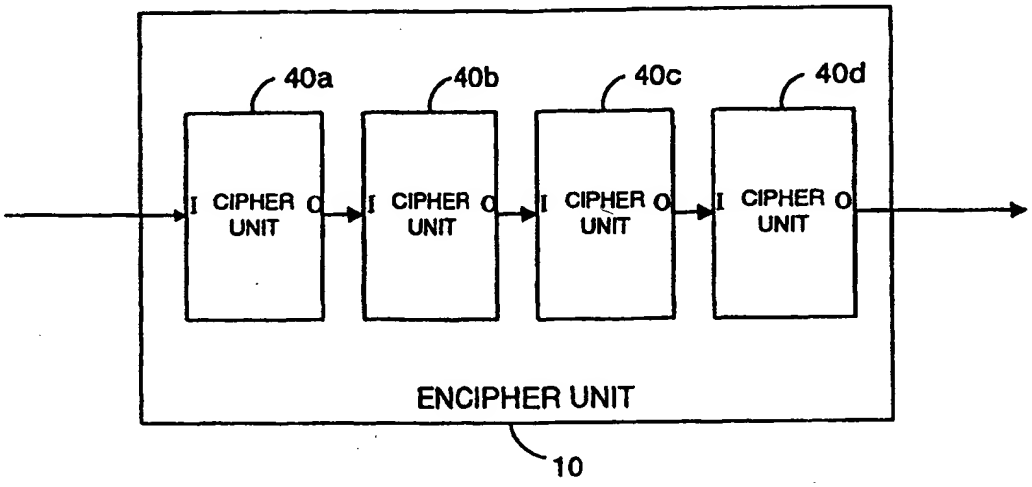

(57) Abstract

A cipher is disclosed for enciphering and deciphering a signal which comprises a plurality of sequentially coupled cipher units, each cipher unit being operable to carry out a reversible operation on the signal. The couplings between cipher units can be randomly configured using a cipher code. The cipher code can be secretly shared between the encipher and decipher. A signal which is enciphered using this technique is thus deciphered using a randomly selected cipher circuit as described by the cipher code.